

23 NOV 44

FIELD INTERROGATION REPORT

ON

Jean LEFEBVRE alias "ETIENNE"

XX 1600

BB/066
11-23-44

(XX4178)

Name : LEFEBVRE, Jean Marie Charles
Alias : ETIENNE
Birth : 9 Oct 1910 at Ixelles, Brussels
Nationality : Belgian
Occupation : Dealer in pharmaceutical and chemical products.
Arrest : 17 Nov 44 by 50 FSS
Last permanent address : 2 rue Alexandre Merkelbach, Brussels.
Tel: 46.11.68.
Languages : French only. Slight knowledge of Flemish and English.
Father : Charles LEFEBVRE, 4 Avenue de Jette, Brussels.
Mother : Jeanne LEFEBVRE, 2 Rue Alexandre Merkelbach, Brussels.
Brothers and sisters : Nil
Wife : Nil
Children : Nil
Identity Card : No. 559389 issued Schaerbeek, Brussels, 24 Mar 43.
Description : Height : 1m80
Build : slight
Hair : black
Face : oval.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2000

REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The subject of this report was arrested in Brussels on 17 Nov 44 by 50 FSS at the request of this Unit. According to information obtained in the interrogation of three agents of Abt VI of the former Sipo and SD office in Brussels, he was known to have been connected with the W/T stay-behind network in Belgium, though not himself a W/T agent.

2. ANTECEDENTS

a) LEFEBVRE is a Licencié-es-Sciences of the Institute of St. Ignace in Antwerp, and is by profession a dealer in pharmaceutical and chemical products. Until Sep 40 he was employed in this capacity by the firm of Louis SANDERS, 47-51 rue Henri Wafelaerts, Brussels. He was then without employment for a few months, during which time he worked in an honorary capacity in a charitable organisation run by the Princesse Jean MERODE, called "Aide aux Familles des Militaires". From March 41 until July 44 he was employed by the Etablissements Albert COUVREUR, 78 rue Gallait, Brussels, after which he decided to set up in business on his own at his address in rue Alexandre Markelbach.

For some years during the war, source tried to supplement his income by dealing scarce modern editions, of which he had a small collection himself. In August joined the VERDINASO party, in which he had a friend named Frans VERDORP,

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hoped that LEHMANN would decide to dispense with his services, but instead of dismissing him altogether, LEHMANN passed him over to Abt. VI in August 1942.
(See statement at Appendix IV).

4. ACTIVITY WITH ABTEILUNG VI

Aug 42 LEFEBVRE received a telephone call from a M. FROMM, who said that he had heard of him from LEHMANN and fixing a meeting in the "Bodega" in the rue de Lorraine. At this meeting, FROMM, otherwise SS Ustuf ALLIGER (4) told source that he was a most useful recruit and would be given a highly important assignment. He was thereupon introduced to a person whose name was not given (19) who told subject that he intended to introduce him into an Allied espionage ring in Namur. He was to leave the next day, enlist recruits, get to know everything about the organisation, after which the Germans would arrest the whole bunch.

LEFEBVRE pointed out that he was quite inexperienced in such matters, that he was a timid and sedentary intellectual, that he was employed in a firm from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and could not possibly leave his employment without exciting suspicion and considerable personal inconvenience. The unknown apparently formed the impression that he was not only unwilling but unsuitable and the project was dropped.

Aug 42 ALLIGER asked source if he knew English, as he proposed to send him to Egypt. LEFEBVRE replied that he knew virtually no English, and would be completely lost in Egypt.

Sep 42 ALLIGER asked source to find out the suspected links between the UK and the allegedly Anglophile directors of the Banque de la Societe Generale. Source, by playing on the difficulties of getting into touch with rich bankers, and the little leisure he had from his job, was able to drag out the matter for several months without reaching any result, by which time Abt VI had lost interest.

Autumn 1942 ALLIGER, dressed in his smartest clothes, conducted source to the Metropole Hotel to introduce him to "A colonel, the head of the SD in Berlin". He was introduced with considerable pomp and circumstance. LEFEBVRE later learnt that this colonel had inspected all ALLIGER's agents, and that as he himself was the most presentable, was considered the show piece, but unfortunately his manner had been rather too casual to make a good impression.

(NB: The "Colonel" may be identical with SS Standartenfuehrer STEIMLE of Amt VI. A slip of cardboard with a pencilled note "RSHA, Stab STEIMLE" was found in ROY's shop. ROY professed to be able to offer no other explanation than that the handwriting, which was obviously German, was that of Funkleiter HERMANN of Abt VI).

1943. During the year source kept rendez-vous with ALLIGER twice a month, usually at the latter's billet in the Avenue des Nations. During the whole period of his service with Abt VI, he visited their office at 18, Rue Emile Claus only three times. As he continually evaded proposals for serious employment on the grounds that he worked at his firm from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and had no time to work for the SD, a series of proposals were made with a view to a change of employment:

- a) First it was suggested that he should give up his job and make the SD his living. To this he replied that if he was unemployed and yet obviously earning a living, he would be branded as a German agent and would be unable to obtain any information.
- b) He was introduced to a Belgian named LORPHEVRE (21) who had worked for the British IS (or so he told ALLIGER) in the 1914-18 war, and was now an agent of Abt VI. This man was a former bank official; he was instructed to find source a job in a bank which would give him cover and greater leisure. A job was actually found in the Kontinentalbank in the Avenue des Arts; this was refused on some pretext or other; and LORPHEVRE was delegated to find another job in the Banque de Bruxelles, in which he was unsuccessful.

/o)

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